

(1) ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲದ ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಖುರ್ಷಿದ್ ಆಲಂಖಾನ್‌ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಧಾನಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಅಧಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 9ನೇ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 1998ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.10 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವ ದ್ವಾರ ಮಂಟಪಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದರು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾರಿನಿಂದ ಇಳಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿದರು. ನಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ (ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ)
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ (ವಿಧಾನಪರಿಷತ್ತು)
ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು

ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಎ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ.

ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಸದನದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಹೊರಟಿತು. ಸಭಾ ಸದನದ ದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆಗಮನವನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಷಲ್‌ರವರು ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗೀತೆಯನ್ನು ನುಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಸದನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ತನಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಸಭಾಸದನದ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ಇಬ್ಬಾಗವಾಯಿತು. ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭಾ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಬಲಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಎಡಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯಭಾಗದ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದಿರುವ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು.

His Excellency Hon'ble Governor:

The Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members.

(ಈ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಚಳುವಳಿ ಪಾಟಾಳ್ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಪಾಟಾಳ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್‌ರವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಭಾಷಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಾ ತಾವೇ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿ ತಂದಿದ್ದ ಭಾಷಣವನ್ನು ಓದಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು)

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Joint Session of the Karnataka Legislature in 1998 and to extend to you and through you to the people of Karnataka my good wishes for the New Year.

(ಈ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ವಿರ್ಗಯವರು ಬೀದರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಷ್ಕ್ರಿಯತೆಯನ್ನು ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿ ಎದ್ದುನಿಂತು ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು)

2. Free and fair elections to the Parliament were conduct in a peaceful environment. I congratulate the people of Karnataka for participating in a big way and also for helping the State in the smooth conduct of elections.

(ಈ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳಾದ ಬಿ.ಐ.ಪಾಟೀಲ್, ನಾರಾಯಣರಾವ್ ಜಿ.ತರಳೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಶೋಕ್ ಎನ್.ಪಾಟೀಲ್‌ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ-ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಗಡಿ ವಿವಾದವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಧಿಕ್ಕಾರ ಕೂಗುತ್ತಾ ಸಭಾತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡಿದರು)

ಗೊಂದಲ

(ಇದೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಭೀಮಣ್ಣ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ, ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ, ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ್, ಶ್ರೀ ಮೊಹ್ಸಿನ್ ಕಮಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ಸೈಯ್ಯದ್ ಜುಲೈಕರ್ ಹತ್ತಿರವರು ಬೀದರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಷ್ಕ್ರಿಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸಿ ಸದನದ ಬಾವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಧರಣಿ ಕುಳಿತರು)

3. My Government always gives highest regard to the will of the people, which is expressed through elections in a democratic process. Though an 'anti-incumbency' factor has been an All India phenomenon in the present elections, my Government deeply respects the message

indicated by the people that with their own aspirations rising they would like Governments to deliver more. In a dynamic democratic society it is the responsibility of the Government to respond to the wishes of the people and my Government will strive harder to meet their expectations. Let me enumerate some of the key indicators of achievement which are an outcome of the sincere efforts of my Government in various fields of development.

(ಈ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ವಾಟಾಳ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್‌ರವರು ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಧಿಕ್ಕಾರ ಕೂಗಿ ತಾವು ತಂದಿದ್ದ ಜಾಗತೀಯನ್ನು ಬಾರಿಸತೊಡಗಿದರು)

4. Ever Since India embarked on the programme of liberalisation the responsibility of taking initiatives to stimulate economic growth, which hitherto rested largely on the Union Government, has been gradually devolving upon the States. I am happy to inform you that my Government has successfully accepted this responsibility and made Karnataka one of the leading States in attracting investments in order to stimulate the State's economy, resulting in higher rate of growth and employment opportunities. It has attracted substantial foreign direct investment to the tune Rs.5,400 Crores in the last three years. My Government has recognised the important role the services sector will play in the growth of the economy. Considering Karnataka's leading position in 'Information Technology', My Government has come out with an Information Technology Policy which is the first of its kind in the country.

(INTERRUPTIONS)

(The rest of the speech may be taken as read)

5. My Government's continued efforts in the last two years have been to strengthen the basic infrastructure such as power, water supply, transport etc. These are important prerequisites for investors coming to Karnataka. The efforts of my Government are not only aimed at encouraging participation of the private sector in these crucial areas but also at bringing about more efficiency in our public sector enterprises particularly those delivering services in critical areas, as for instance KEB, BWSSB, KUWSSB, KSRTC etc.

6. In fact, Karnataka is the first State in the country to invite private sector participation in Power transmission. The Karnataka Electricity Board is setting up a joint venture company, in collaboration with a private partner, to establish a transmission network to evacuate the power to be generated by Mangalore Power Company. Similarly, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board is augmenting water supply for Bangalore City by 500 Million litres per day under Cauvery Stage IV, Phase II project through private sector participation on BOOT basis.

7. My Government has given priority to making the administration more responsive to the people. The need to divide the larger districts was under contemplation for several decades, and this has now been boldly implemented by creating new districts, thereby bringing administration closer to the people.

8. During the year 1997-98 the State has been able to attract 16 Mega Industrial Projects with planned investment of Rs.6000 Crores, and has also approved the setting up of 17,653 small and medium units with a total

investment of Rs.424 Crores. Members are aware that Karnataka hitherto did not have any major Automobile Manufacturing Unit, which is a prime mover of industrial and economic development. I am very happy to state that during the last year the State has been able to attract 4 Automobile majors, viz., Volvo of Sweden, Toyota-Kirloskar Motor Corporation, Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company and TVS Suzuki who will set up local units for manufacture of heavy duty trucks, passenger cars, special purpose vehicles, and two-wheelers respectively. The total investment in these projects is of the order of Rs.1200 Crores and this will provide employment to 5,700 persons directly. More importantly, these industries have large multiplier effect on the economy in terms of creation of wealth and employment through their backward and forward linkages.

9. The importance of quality power supply to sustain a high industrial growth, needs no emphasis. The Karnataka Power Corporation has been able to work with its existing power plants optimally through systematic and scientific maintenance and management systems, resulting in record generation of power during the year. The first phase of the Kadra project, in Kalinadi Hydro Electric Project State II, was commissioned in November, 1997. The Kodasalli first unit is scheduled to be commissioned during March 1998. The brightest star on the KPCL horizon is the expansion of the Raichur Thermal Power Station. Work on the fifth and sixth Raichur Thermal Power Station units commenced last year. I am happy to say that commendable progress has been achieved in a short time, and these are expected to

be commissioned in record time. However, the long pending Cogentrix 1000 Mega Watt Power Project is yet to receive the counter guarantee from Government of India. The State Government is taking steps to speed up implementation of the project.

10. My Government has also recognised the importance of encouraging power generation through the use of renewable energy resources. In this regard the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited has been designated as a nodal agency to co-ordinate the setting up of power projects with the use of wind, small hydel and solar energy. I am happy that during the current year 10 Mega Watt of wind power and 36.5 Mega Watt of small hydro power units have been commissioned. The potential for generating 500 Mega Watt of wind power has also been identified.

11. 'Roads' are yet another area of importance for the growth of the economy. During the 8th Plan, an amount of Rs.273 Crores has been spent and a length of 3972 Km. of roads have been asphalted and other improvement works have been carried out. A total of 154 bridges have been built. The Ankola-Hubli State Highway, has been upgraded by constructing 366 bridges/culverts. An outlay of Rs.803 Crores has been proposed in the Ninth plan for this sector. It is proposed to provide two lane roads on the State Highways which have heavy traffic density.

12. Keeping in view the phenomenal increase in vehicular traffic and the need for development/improvement of State highways, my Government has approached the World Bank, with a Rs.900 Crores project for assistance.

13. For betterment of rural roads, including those upgraded as major roads, a project was posed to NABARD for Loan Assistance and its approval has since been received for works amounting to Rs.250 Crores.

14. My Government is also encouraging private participation in the road sector. As regards Bangalore-Mysore Express way, I am happy to inform you that an agreement has already been entered into. To facilitate taking up of road improvement projects through private entrepreneurs, State Highway Act is being amended. A Road Policy for the State is along going to be announced soon.

15. To decongest traffic in the Bangalore City there is a need for diverting heavy vehicles from the city. Improvement of link road, joining Dobbespeth on NH-4 with Attibele on NH-7, is taken up at a cost of Rs.26 Crores to meet this purpose.

16. My Government has also initiated steps for improvement of the urban areas which act as catalysts of development. The Committee on Urban Management of Bangalore City was constituted during April 1997 and its report is under consideration of the Government. This committee in addition to suggesting the improvement of the working of the Urban areas, has also suggested various means of raising resources for development of infrastructure in the Urban areas.

17. For the first time, the Bangalore City Corporation has floated municipal bonds for an amount of Rs.125 Crores, for financing improvement of the roads, footpaths, bus bays and other facilities.

18. Work on Intermediate Ring Road link at Agaram plains has commenced and would be completed by December, 1998 at a cost of Rs.14.4 Crores by the Bangalore Development Authority. The Bangalore Development Authority has also planned for further augmenting and improving the outer ring road.

19. Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation has been a leading Institution in the Country in formulating and implementing Urban Development projects through local bodies. Under mega city project it has sanction projects worth Rs.352 Crores.

20. The Asian Development Bank has agreed, in principle, to consider funding of West Coast Development Project. In the meantime, ADB has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 32 lakhs as technical assistance for the preparation of a detailed project report which will be finalised during the year.

21. On similar lines an integrated Urban Development project for the Hubli-Dharwad, Gulbarga and Bellary has also been prepared which will be posed to the funding agencies for financial assistance.

22. Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board, during the year 1997-98, purposes to commission 26 new drinking water projects,. Government has also sanctioned 15 new schemes for providing water to different urban areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.43 Crores. The works are under various stages of progress. Assistance of Government of India has also been sought for 3 water supply schemes estimated to cost Rs. 132 Crores. Scheme for development of water supply and sanitation to towns is also being thought of with the

assistance of Federal Republic of Germany at a cost of Rs. 219 Crores. In addition, Government also intends to approach the World Bank for Assistance, for water supply schemes to 32 towns, with an outlay of Rs. 317 Crores.

23. Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana is being implemented in all 214 Urban local bodies. This is an integrated whole Town approach programme which covers all urban people who are below the Poverty line and ensures self employment and wage employment, with higher stress on development for women and children. This scheme also envisages settingup of credit and thrift societies.

24. One of the key factors for accelerated development of rural areas is irrigation. My Government has a total commitment to utilise Krishna waters by the year 2000. Till now Rs. 1093.45 Crores was mobilised by my Government through Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam. The financial progress achieved during the last three years is Rs. 1692.8 Crores and the potential created is 79,662 hectares. Works on canals for a total length of 308 Kms. and 37 distributaries are in progress. Mulwad Lift Irrigation Scheme to benefit 30,850 hectares is also taken up.

25 During the year 1997-98 Vishveshwariah Canal modernisation programme was takenup at a cost of Rs. 60 Crores to improve water management in the Command Area. In addition to this, Rs.230 Crores was spent on irrigation projects in Cauvery basin. While on this subject, I would like to emphasise that, even though Cauvery water dispute is before the Tribunal, it has been the consistent stand of my Government that the Cauvery

water dispute is to be solved amicably through negotiations among concerned States keeping in view the interest of the farmers.

26. Considering our past experience and success in the on going watershed development projects, the Government has also sanctioned new projects with an outlay of Rs. 83.4 Crores with the assistance of Department for International Development of United Kingdom for taking up watershed development projects in the districts of Chitradurga, Bellary and Bijapur.

27. Keeping in view the importance of Byadagi Chillies, which is a major commercial crop in certain parts of the State, a Chilly Research Station has been sanctioned by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

28. To see for themselves agricultural development and practices adopted in various parts of the country and also to interact with the farmers of those areas, 873 farmers of the State were taken on an all India tour.

29. My Government is also participating in the Centrally Sponsored Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme introduced in Bijapur District for one year from Rabi 1997-98. All small and marginal farmers of Bijapur District will have the insurance cover for specified crops irrespective of whether they have availed crop loan or not.

30. In the recent years commercial Horticulture is helping farmers to obtain adequate returns both in dry and Irrigated area. Horticulture produce has a great export potential also. Bangalore is turning out to be a

leading centre for Floriculture. A Model Floriculture Centre has been developed at Nagroor near Bangalore. Hi-tech training on floriculture is being provided in this centre to farmers.

31. Considering the depletion of ground water in the State, it is imperative to use water most economically and therefore, my Government proposes to encourage the use of drip irrigation system by the farmers. During the year, ten thousand hectares in the State will be brought under this system.

32. My Government commitment to the decentralisation of authority to the Panchayat Raj Institutions has been confirmed through the comprehensive amendments made to the Panchayat Raj Act in October, 1997. The task of determination of the number of elected members, reservation to different categories, delimitation of territorial constituencies and such other vital matters has now been entrusted to the State Election Commission, an independent body. Certain functions are made obligatory on the part of Panchayat Raj Institutions. Further, many powers vested in authorities like the Divisional commissioners, Deputy Commissioners etc., under the earlier Act, have been reallocated to Panchayat Raj Institutions. To discuss matters relating to the functioning of the Panchayats, a State Panchayat Council has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister.

33. My Government undertook a massive programme of rural environmental sanitation called Nirmala Grama Yojana to construct latrines for rural households. I am happy to announce that with the enthusiastic support of

the Panchayat Raj Institutions, the State has built more than 3.6 lakh household latrines under this programme by the end of December, 1997. This programme will be further strengthened and continued with the assistance of the Union Government and agencies like the UNICEF.

34. My Government continues to give importance to the programmes aimed at generation of employment for agricultural labourers. During 1997-98, upto end of December, 1997 Rs. 155 Crores have been spent on employment generation activities. More than 388 lakh mandays of employment has been generated for the rural unemployed while creating valuable assets to the community. The centrally sponsored Employment Assurance Scheme has been extended to all the 175 blocks in the State since 1997-98.

35. My Government's utmost priority is to meet the housing needs of the economically weaker sections of the society. It has been implementing this policy to provide accommodation to 20 lakh shelterless persons in a phased manner.

36. A novel scheme of providing night shelters and community toilets, on pay and use basis, for pavement dwellers is going to be launched during the year 1998-99 in the Cities of Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, Mangalore and Gulbarga. The scheme has central assistance and a loan component from HUDCO.

37. New thrust of my Government in the coming years is to integrated stabilisation of population growth with the health of women and children. Under this policy a programme is going to be launched, which combines fertility regulations with maternal and child health

schemes, along with screening and diagnosis of various connected ailments, to finally aim at reduced infant and maternal mortality and morbidity. The Government will also introduce a new drug, procurement policy which would lead to radical changes in the supply of quality drugs to the Government hospitals.

38. My Government is in full agreement with the Union Government's proposal to make education of children, upto the age of 14 years, a fundamental right. We have also initiated steps in this regard to achieve such a goal by the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

- (a) In the current year 1469 Government Primary Schools have been established and 3024 Government Lower Primary Schools have been upgraded as Higher Primary Schools.
- (b) Action for filling up of 29,500 posts of primary schools teachers has been initiated for the current year bringing the total number of recruitment since 1994-95 to 72,373,
- (c) Rs. 42 Crores have been allocated during the current year for the construction of 8000 class rooms, bringing the total number of class rooms taken up for construction from 1994-95 to 1997-98 to approximately twenty thousand.

39. The World Bank assisted District Primary Education Programme, has been extended to seven more districts viz., Bangalore Rural, Mysore, Dharwad, Bellary, Gulbarga, Bidar and Bijapur in the II Phase, bringing the total districts covered under the project to eleven. Total project cost would be Rs.240 Crores.

40. As a part of Birth Centenary year of Netaji Suhash Chandra Bose, construction of 224 Secondary School buildings, one in each Assembly Constituency, has been taken up.

41. Realising that the achievement made under the Total Literacy Campaign is to be supplemented, my Government launched a new programme "Kannada Nadu-Sakshra Nadu" from 1-11-1997 to cover 25.4 lakh adult illiterates.

42. The Vishveshwariah Technological University, approved earlier, will come into existence from 1-4-1998.

43. For regularisation of unauthorised cultivation of Government lands, 10.8 lakh applications were received. 7.7 lakhs being disposed, 3.1 lakh applications are pending for consideration before the committees constituted under Sec. 94A of Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964. My Government's endeavour is to dispose all the pending applications by the end of this year. In this regard, in addition to existing 173 committees, additional committees are also being constituted where pendency is more.

44. My Government desires that the deprived poor, who are old, infirm and windowed, are provided succour. My Government intends to activate the district machinery during the year 1998-99 to bring into the welfare net, all those eligible persons who are yet to be covered under the schemes providing monthly pensions to such old, infirm and widowed persons.

45. My Government is considering a proposal to computerise survey records with the financial assistance

from Government of India. The Government has also opened survey offices at taluk level during 1997-98, which will greatly benefit the people.

46. An ambitious programme of afforestation, covering 23 districts of the State, is being implemented with the assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF), Japan. Under this project 32 lakh hectares of private farm land and 1.7 lakh hectares of Government forest land is being taken up for afforestation. The project will be implemented for a period of 5 years.

47. My Government is committed to extend health cover to the entire livestock of the State. Due to implementation of several developmental programmes by the department, contribution towards GDP of the State from livestock sector is now about 9 per cent. To further improve the quality of livestock, it is proposed to establish two new semen production centres.

48. The State exported 9914 MT of marine products during the year 1996-97 earning foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 100 Crores. Keeping our export potential in view, action is also being taken to establish a fresh water prawn seed hatchery at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 lakhs.

49. In order to harness full potential of marine fish production, my Government has a programme to extend and improve the existing fishing harbours at Mangalore and Karwar and to make improvements at fish landing centres located at Bhatkal [Alvekodi], Belekeri, Gangolli etc.

50. For the benefit of poor houseless fishermen, a special scheme to construct 5000 houses at an estimated

cost of Rs. 15.12 Crores, with the assistance of HUDCO, is being considered.

51. The Centrally sponsored Targeted Public Distribution System is being implemented in the State from 1-6-1997. Under this scheme the Government of India has covered only 28.75 lakh families declaring them as below the poverty line. But the State Government has so far identified 59.4 lakh, as families below the poverty line. In spite of heavy burden on the State exchequer, my Government has extended the benefits of the Central Scheme to the 30.65 lakhs families who are not covered by the Government of India scheme. In addition to the above, there are 43.23 lakh families above the poverty line who are covered under the normal public distribution scheme.

52. My Government has recognised the need to have a clear focus for the utilisation of resources earmarked for the welfare of the SCs/STs. It has identified Education, Housing and Irrigation as the priority areas, as these sectors are found to have lasting and perceptible impact on the lives of the SCs/STs.

53. To achieve this, during 1998-99, my Government is envisaging a new mechanism which would facilitate convergence of funds and speed up implementation of the programmes for promoting welfare of SC/ST people.

54. In addition to convergence of resources, we are also focussing on the issue of effective implementation through harmonising varied programmes and improving the delivery system. In this regard, a study by a reputed consultant is contemplated during the year 1998-99.

55. Under Education, my Government gave importance for starting of new hostels, construction of hostel buildings, increasing the scholarships to high school going girls, starting special coaching classes to SC/ST high school students, training SC/ST youths in high value skill development and on the job training under 'Navachetana.'

56. My Government has increased the scholarships to high school going SC/ST girls from Rs. 100 to 600 per annum.

57. Under Ganga Kalyana Scheme, about 8000 borewells have been drilled for SCs/STs. To speed up the energisation of the borewells, my Government is also meeting the total cost of energisation.

58. Under 'Land Purchase Scheme,' with a view to provide better lands to SC/ST beneficiaries, the unit cost has been increased from Rupees twenty thousand to fifty thousand.

59. My Government is committed to extend facilities to the students belonging to Backward Classes and Minorities. In this regard, we intend to accelerate the construction and completion of hostels during 1998-99. Also, merited Backward Class and Minority students pursuing professional courses will be assisted with study loans.

60. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has been trifurcated into three Corporations which have started functioning. This has led to substantial improvement in the services and considerable relief to the travelling public. The trifurcation is also going to

improve the financial status of these Corporations leading to achieving of break even in the near future. This will also help Corporations to generate resources, which could help them augment and modernise the transport systems.

61. Regional Transport Offices will be computerised for extending better services to the public. It is also intended to open new Assistant Regional Transport Offices in places where there is heavy registration of vehicles.

62. As a first step towards abolition of child labour, a detailed survey has been undertaken to identify the children working in hazardous and non-hazardous industries. A corpus with a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs has been constituted to be administered by a district level child labour society in each district for the rehabilitation of child labour.

63. The Government has launched Karnataka Mahila Abhivrudhi Yojane, first of its kind in the country, under which 33.33% of the resources of all the Development Departments in respect of beneficiary oriented and labour intensive schemes are earmarked exclusively for women beneficiaries. Twenty One Departments have earmarked funds to the tune of Rs. 211.22 Crore under 174 different schemes against which so far Rs. 195.97 Crores have been spent. My Government is committed to continue its endeavour in mobilising funds under Karnataka Mahila Abivrudhi Yojane which is going to empower women in a big way.

64. A State Resource Centre has been setup by the Karnataka State Women Development Corporation to carryout evaluation of the Corporation's schemes, to

promote research on gender issues, provide counselling services to women and to conduct product development workshops.

65. The Directorate of Welfare of disabled will implement community based rehabilitation programme, on a pilot basis, in two districts to make the benefits of development programmes reach the disabled. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka is appointed as the Commissioner for persons with disabilities under "Persons with Disabilities [Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation] Act, 1995."

66. My Government has prepared a revised Master Plan during 1997, coinciding with the 9th Five Year Plan, for integrated development of Tourism in the State. The Master plan envisages an investment potential of Rs. 4500 Crores, out of which about 30% will have to come from the Government sector and 70% from the private sector. The tourism policy aims at attracting private investment to tourism.

67. My Government successfully organised the IVth National Games, wherein 6,300 athletes from various parts of the Country took part. Karnataka stood first in the medals tally by winning 72 Gold, 45 Silver and 51 Bronze Medals. As a result of organisation of IVth National Games, the State has acquired international standard sports infrastructures namely, Kanteerava Sports Complex, which includes Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Kanteerava Indoor Stadium with 4000 seating capacity, another Indoor Stadium with 2000 seating capacity at Koramangala and also development of Chamundivihar

Sports Complex at Mysore. It is also intended to take up construction of an International Standard Swimming Pool at Mysore, for which necessary budget, provision has already been made. My Government has also taken up construction of Taluk Stadia in 84 Taluk Headquarters.

68. The Department of Kannada & Culture is taking action for telecasting/broadcasting Kannada Learning Lessons, for the benefit of non-Kannadigas, through Doordarshan and AIR respectively. Audio and Video cassettes for the same purpose will also be released. To ensure extensive use of Kannada in administration, steps are being initiated for development of computer software in Kannada.

69. To provide speedy justice to the people, the Government has a comprehensive programme to establish new courts. During the current year sanction was accorded to establish three Family Courts at Mysore, Gulbarga and Raichur. Establishment of 11 regular Courts is also under active consideration of the Government. During the current year 60 Legal Aid Camps were conducted throughout the State, by the district and taluk committees, disposing 23,223 cases. As per the new Act, every Award or Order made by the Lok Adalat shall be final and binding on all the parties to the disputes and no appeal shall lie to any Court.

70. The law and Order situation in the State was satisfactory and there was peace prevailing in the State. Maintenance of Communal Harmony was given special importance as to ensure harmonious living for the people.

71. I have touched only on a few important aspects during my address and I am sure that you will cover

during the discussions large number of issues and schemes which have been formulated by my Government, aiming at alround economic development of the State with social justice as the foundation. However, in the decades following our independence all the sections including the private sector used to look up to the Government for setting standards in administrative procedures, strategies, practices and innovations. Gradually this position is slipping and the modern technologies are being adopted faster by the private sector. With the increase in population and decrease in resources, the Government is under great stress to provide better services in quicker time with the same human and financial resources. This calls for a challenge and there is a need for thorough discussion by an august body like the legislature to identify critical areas for State's intervention, redefine the role of the Government, to adopt modern administrative practices and speed up the use of Information Technology in the State administration so as to meet the rising aspirations of the people

72. I conclude this address with a sincere hope that both the houses will transact their business effectively in the best interest of the State. I wish you all success in you endeavour.

JAI KARNATAKA, JAI HIND.

(The Governor concluded his speech at. 12.25 p.m.)

(ಪುನಃ ಸದನವು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12-45 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಮಾವೇಶಗೊಂಡಿತು)

(ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಅವರು ಪೀಠದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತರಿದ್ದರು)